

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/030,315
Sughrue Ref: Q66240

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A case comprising:

a containing part adapted to contain a plurality of objects that are overlapped and disposed in a raised position in the containing part objects to be contained;

a lid part disposed on an opening of said containing part and connected to said container part by a hinge part, said lid part operable to be freely opened and closed; and

at least one pair of locking portions, said locking portions being operable to be engaged with each other and disposed in areas near corners of both side faces of said opening of said containing part and an opening of said lid part, and

wherein said locking portions extend along said side faces of said container and said side faces of said lid part in a direction of a vertical axis of said case, said direction of said vertical axis corresponding to a direction of opening of said case,

wherein each pair of locking portions includes a first of said locking portions, which is provided on said container part and a second of said locking portions, which is provided on said lid part,

wherein said first of said locking portions includes a first shape having a first depression and a first projection, and said second of said locking portions includes a second shape having a second projection and a second depression,

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wherein said first shape is adapted to be engaged with said second shape; and
wherein the first depression and the first projection are disposed adjacent to each other,
and the second projection and the second depression are disposed adjacent to each other.

2. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said areas near said corners extend from a front face of said case along said side faces to a point that is less than or equal to one fourth of a width of each of said side faces of said case.

3. and 4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions are disposed at areas near corners at a front side of said case, and disposed at substantially middle areas of both said side faces of said openings of said containing part and said lid part.

6. (currently amended): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said first and second projection does not include an undercut portions~~said locking portions comprise an undercut shape.~~

7. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking portions are disposed at areas near corners at a front side of said case, and disposed at areas near corners at a back side of said case.

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8. (currently amended): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein ridgelines of said projections and depressions of said locking portions are rounded.

9. (currently amended): A case comprising:

a containing part comprising a deep container portion and an outer stepped portion having a thin wall thickness at an open edge of an opening of the containing part, said containing part being adapted to contain a plurality of objects that are overlapped and disposed in a raised position in the containing part objects to be contained;

a lid part provided with an inner stepped portion having a thin wall thickness at an open edge of an opening of said lid part, said lid part being disposed on said opening of said containing part and connected to said containing part by a hinge part, said lid part being operable to be freely opened and closed; and

at least one pair of locking portions, said locking portions adapted to be engaged with each other and disposed in areas near corners of both side faces of said opening of said containing part and an opening of said lid part;

wherein said outer stepped portion of said containing part and said inner stepped portion of said lid part are adapted to be engaged with each other; and

wherein said locking portions extend along said side faces of said containing part and said side faces of said lid part in a direction of a vertical axis of said case, said direction of said vertical axis corresponding to a direction of opening of said case;

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wherein each pair of locking portions includes a first of said locking portions, which is provided on said container part and a second of said locking portions, which is provided on said lid part;

wherein said first of said locking portions includes a first shape having a first depression and a first projection, and said second of said locking portions includes a second shape having a second projection and a second depression;

wherein said first shape is adapted to be engaged with said second shape; and

wherein the first depression and the first projection are disposed adjacent to each other, and the second projection and the second depression are disposed adjacent to each other.

10. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein said areas near said corners includes a range within one fourth of a width of each of the side faces of the case.

11. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking portions are provided in substantially middle areas of both the side faces of the openings of the containing part and the lid part.

12. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two pairs of locking portions are provided in one side surface.

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13. (previously presented): The case as claimed in claim 10, wherein said areas near said corners includes a range of 0 mm to 7 mm from a corner of the case.